The trapanning Trapanners trapanned, The Deceivers deceived.

OR,

The Deceitful taken in their own Snare.

(24)

THis moſt true trapanning ſtory (as it came to my hands, ſo ſhall I endeavour faithfully to preſent it to your view, both briefly and truly) from perſons of known integrity; being grounded on a Reference gained from his Highneſs, for and concerning an unhappy difference of many yeers continuance, between one Mr. *Richard Blithe* of *London*, Grocer, (and dealer in Tobacco) and the proud finical Dame his Wife, *Anne Blithe*; ſtiled by her Comrades, *Madam Blithe*.

This new-made Madam *Blithe*, was married ſome nineteen yeers ſince to her ſaid Husband, and brought 300 *l.* portion; who for ſome yeers lived civilly and decently with her Husband, and went comely attired like a Citizens Wife, according to her mean degree and breeding; and did then alſo, for ſome two yeers time, make a great ſhew of Religion: but moſt unhappily, in the beginning of theſe our late unhappy diſtractions, ſhe fell acquainted with ſome roaring Blades, who made the World dayly to run on wheels with her, to ſundry Taverns, as, the Still-yard, Spring-garden, Hide-park, Sparagus-garden, the three Squirrels at Lambeth, and other ſuch-like places. Theſe ſmooth-fac'd Hectors, together with Mr. *Thomas Bailſtone*, Bachelor, (Mr. *Blithe*'s own Partner in Trade,

&c.) courting this new-made Madam in this manner, cauſed Mr. *Blithe* frequently, with tears in his eyes, to withdraw into ſome Chamber, or go out of Doors, till they had enjoyed their fill of courting her. She thus becoming valiant, and gaining the maſtery, began to ſcorn and ſlight her Husband: and when he deſired to ſalute her, ſhe would then ſpit in his face, calling him arrant Clown, filthy Beaſt, ugly Toad, Rogue, and what not? Telling him, that the very ſight of him was hateful and odious to her; and that if he durſt but give her any croſs language for it, ſhe could and would have him baſtinado'd into better manners; which not long after was put in practice: for, one of her many Hectors (by name, Capt. *Hoult*) writ a moſt vile, reviling, threatning Letter to Mr. *Blithe*, whereby he chalenged him to fight: but this intended deſtruction of Mr. *Blithe*, was prevented; for, this Capt. *Hoult* was not long after apprehended for a Robber, carried to New-gate; and not long after, in ſtead of his coaching and courting of Madam *Blithe*, he himſelf was courted by the Hang-man, and carted to Tiburn; and there the intended duel between Mr. *Blithe* and this Cap. *Hoult*, (her dear Champion) was determined by a halter. Madam *Blithe* upon this, being extremely moved at the loſs of her chief Hector, went away from her Husband, and lay perdue in & about Covent-garden, at one Mr. *Wethels*, a Tailors houſe; and ſo continued ſhifting her Lodgings for ſome four yeers time, and then retired to a Gentlemans houſe neer *Darkin* in *Surry*. About this time her Husband *Blithe* fell ſick, who by his doleful Letter, (and the meſſenger ſent) declared to her his weakneſs, and moſt earneſtly begged a viſit from her: which requeſt of his, and him both, ſhe de-

derided, and moſt inhumanely denied to ſtir a foot for his good or ſatisfaction; yea, though to the ſaving of his life. In *February* following, it ſo hapned, that his Partner, *Thomas Bailſtone*, being amongſt their Chapmen in *Newark* upon *Trent*, fell ſick there, and preſently ſends a Letter to Madam *Blithe*, declaring his ſickneſs to her; who preſently, upon reading of the Letter, comes to *London*, hires a coach for *Newark*, goes down in froſt and ſnow, for the reſtoring of Mr. *Bailſtone* to health by her amiable preſence; which doubtleſs put life in *Bailſtone*, and ſatisfied her longing deſires. For *Solomon* ſaith, That a barren wombe is never ſatisfied, but crieth, Give, Give. This coming to Mr. *Blithes* hearing, produced grief of heart to him; and being not well content with ſuch a Partner, parted with him the Eſtate in Trade. Madam *Blithe* being vexed at it, ſues her Husband then, and not before, for Alimony. (*Note this.*) Gains an Order, for Mr. *Blithe* forthwith to pay her 50 *l.* to wage Law againſt himſelf. Mr. *Blithe*, ſeeing theſe ſtrange Decrees, thought it moſt ſafe to compoſe differences with ſuch an Adverſary ſpeedily. Whereupon he puts it to friends, who being alſo bewitched by her Syrene-inchantments, did order Mr. *Blithe* to depoſite 1000 *l.* for her annual ſeparate maintenance into the hands of her Brother *John Dean*; which *Dean* was to ſecure it by a Statute of 2000 *l.* defeaſanſed to pay the intereſt of the 1000 *l.* to Madam *Blithe*; and if ſhe ſurvive her Husband, then the 1000 *l.* to be at her diſpoſe; and that neither the ſaid new-made Madam *Blithe*, nor any other for her, nor to her uſe, ſhall directly or indirectly, ſue, moleſt, or any way trouble, or demand any further maintenance, nor challenge any part of Mr. *Blithes* Eſtate, in his life-time, nor after his death.

This continued until *May*, 1656. at which time, Mr. *Blithe* being very desirous to have the company of his Wife, Madam *Blithe*, to that purpose gains his Highness Reference, directed to Mr. *George Hudson*, of St. Martins Lane, *London*, and Mr. *Thomas Potter*, Trader to *Virginia*; who, like two honest Christian men, endeavoured a reconciliation, but could not gain it, but upon hard terms, *viz.* that Madam *Blithe* should at her Husbands death, have and enjoy 500 *l.* more then the 1000 *l.* formerly deposited; so that M. *Blithe* hath upon the matter but 100 *l.* left to dispose to his Friends at his death. This being concluded, and secured by a Statute of 1000 *l.* she goes home to her husband, where Mr. *Bailstone* (becoming again his Partner in Trade some 18 months before) thought himself happy to enjoy Madam *Blithes* company so neer at hand. Madam *Blithe*, not intending to continue with her husband, soon after studies how to make the later Statute of 1000 *l.* forfeit to her, and to have cause to depart again. To that end, gains eight or nine several odd creatures, one after another, in twenty weeks space, as servant-maids: charges every of them not to obey her husband in any thing, and to take special notice of every uncivil word, and harsh language of her husband towards her: her Brother *Dean*, and his Partner *Bailstone* must pretend great love to her husband *Blithe*, carry him from Tavern to Tavern daily, burden him with drink on purpose to provoke him to rash language, knowing his pronenes thereunto being in drink: then *Bailstone* sets down all in writing for a *memorandum*. At length, Madam *Blithe* pretends a pinch by the arm from her husband, conceives it a sufficient breach of the said Statute of 1000 *l.* goes away again from her husband

band in ſecret, (this being her fifth progreſs from her husband) takes up her lodging in Martins-Lane, neer Charing-croſs, entertains one *Elias Allin* for her Sollicitor, compoſes and contrives all the ſeveral Affidavits in her chamber, ſends for the ſeveral female-creatures, formerly her pretended ſervants, to ſwear to them before a Maſter in the Chancery: ſends for her almoſt honeſt reſtored ſiſter, *Henry Blithes* late unnatural wife, to ſwear home to the purpoſe in like manner, againſt Madam *Blithes* husband, M. *Richard Blithe*; wherein his Partner *Bailſtone*, and his ſervant *Gulſtone*, had no ſmall hand, as alſo their full ſhare of ſwearing againſt Mr. *Blithe*. Madam *Blithe* then alſo ſends for her intimate confiding friends, Cap. *Geo. Vaux*, M. *Ozney*, and M. [redacted] *Hargrave*, and ſome other; conſults with them for the gaining of his Highneſs Reference, and how to draw Mr. *Blithe* into Bonds, to ſtand to the determination of the Referrees, which are concluded by themſelves to be Capt. *Vaux*, M. *Squib*, M. *Hargrave*, Lieut. Col. *Zankey*, and Maj. *Miller*. But hearing that one M. *Freſe* is known to M. *Blithe*, and fearing leſt he might fruſtrate all their deſign laid for the deſtroying of M. *Blithe* in Goal, ſome of them think fit to take him alſo from M. *Blithe*, by nominating him a Referree for Madam *Blithe*; concluding, that he being once by her won, would be drawn to be the loadſtone to draw M. *Blithe* into bonds. The Reference is gained; Capt. *Vaux* fetches it out, and pays for it. M. *Bailſtone* and *Gulſtone* are ſet to gain M. *Freſe* his wife to give Madam *Blithe* a viſit; at which meeting, ſhe complains to Ms. *Freſe* of her husbands cruelty, ſpeaks very reproachfully of him, and renders him to Ms. *Freſe*, to be the vileſt perſon breathing: all this is then ſeconded for a truth, both by M. *Bailſtone*

and

and M. *Gulstone* to Mrs. *Frese*; and that M. *Blithe* is fit for the company of none but Bears; and that a Goal is fittest for him, and that Madam *Blithe* went in danger of her life every day: which relation, thus made, presented it for a real truth to Ms. *Frese*, so as that she extreamly condoled Madam *Blithes* condition to M. *Frese*, her husband; and according to Madam *Blithes* desire, she pressed her husband to condescend to be one of the Referrees.

Madam *Blithe* then also tells Ms. *Frese*, that by some intimate friends of hers, she is advised and also resolved to go away privately from her husband; and desired to know of Ms. *Frese* whether she thought it fittest for her to go presently, or stay longer for some better advantage against her husband: to which Ms. *Frese* replied, that she was not able to advise her in such a case. Madam *Blithe* also then told Ms. *Frese*, that *she doubted not but those friends of hers, who were to gain the reference, were resolved to order the matter to her best advantage, so as she might enjoy her peaceable separate being from her husband*; and then beg'd for M. *Frese* to be one of the Referrees; of which having then gained half a promise from Ms. *Frese*, Madam *Blithe* soon after (attended by M. *Bailstone*) came in a coach to *Milend-green* to M. *Frese* his house, where she renews her suit, and gains M. *Frese* consent to be a Referree with Capt. *Vaux*, M. *Squib*, and M. *Hargrave*; telling him then, that *these Gentlemen, together with himself, would without doubt carry on the business to her hearts content.*

About *Nov.* 1656. the Reference is gained, directed to Lieut. Col. *Zanky*, Maj. *Miller*, *George Vaux*, *Joh. Squib*, *James Frese*, and ~~*George*~~ *Abraham Hargrave*, or any two of them: a Warrant is signed by the Referrees for M. *Blithe*, and his

his wives appearance before them. Then *Madam Blithe*, Capt. *Vaux*, and M. *Hargrave*, and M. *Squib*, conſult (at *Madam Blithes* chamber) and conclude that neither Col. *Zanky*, nor Maj. *Miller*, are to have any notice to appear at their meetings; and that M. *Freſe* knowing M. *Blithe*, muſt be deſired to perſwade *M. Blithe*, to give *Vaux* and *Squib* a meeting, as unknown to *Madam Blithe*, before the day of publick meeting of both parties. This is moved by Cap. *Vaux* to *M. Freſe*, at *Madam Blithes* lodgings, who accordingly gains *M. Blithe* to meet at the Sun in Kings-ſtreet at *Weſtminſter*. At which time and meeting (Capt. *Vaux*, *M. Squid*, *M. Freſe*, and ſome others preſent) Capt. *Vaux* ſeemingly pities *M. Blithes* condition, of having ſuch a wicked woman to his wife; denieth that ever he ſaw her but once in all his life: yet tells *M. Blithe*, that he had heard from one *M. Blagrave*, that his wife was an arrant whore. *M. Blithe* then replied, ſaying, *Sir, You do not hear me ſay ſo.* Then Capt. *Vaux* queſtions *M. Blithe* what portion he had with his wife; who affirmed that he never had but 300 *l.* & that he alloweth her 50 *l. per annum*, for his own peace ſake. Cap. *Vaux* then replied, ſaying, M. *Blithe*, *Believe it, Sir, as long as ſhe can enjoy ſuch large ſeparate annual maintenance, ſhe will ſet you at nought, and vex you perpetually: therefore the way for us the Referrees muſt be, to compel her to live with you as a civil woman ought to do with her husband, or to be content with ſuch allowance as is anſwerable to the portion ſhe brought you; and this will not be done any other way, then by entring into* Bonds *to ſtand to our determination. Hath ſhe any friends* (ſaid Capt. *Vaux*) *that will be bound for her in* 3 *or* 4000 l. *Bond? Yes*, ſaid *M. Blithe*, *ſhe hath her brothers*, John Dean, *and* Thomas Salisbury. *Well, well*, ſaid Capt. *Vaux*, *we will ſee to work.*

work this the beſt we can; and your own ſingle Bonds ſhall ſerve to us, M. Blithe: *if we can get her to engage by friends, we ſhall then handle her to ſome tune: for really, if ſuch extravagant fooliſh women ſhould not be kept in ſome bounds, they would inevitably ruine their husbands. I Gentlemen,* (ſaid *M. Blithe*) *ſhe hath almoſt ruined me already; yea, nothing will ſatisfie her, but my utter ruine in ſome Goal or Priſon; and this hath been a long time plotted by her and my deer Partner* Tom Bailſtone: *God forgive them for it.*

Some two days after this contrived meeting, the bonds of 4000 *l.* are brought to Capt. *Vaux* his chamber in *White-hall*, ready drawn [redacted] *: Madam Blithe* and *M. Blithe* appear before the Referrees, where ſhe ſeemeth to be a meer ſtranger to Capt. *Vaux*, and all the Referrees, and very unwilling to enter into bonds: but after much debate, condeſcends, propoſes her brother *Salisbury*, (then there preſent) and her bro: *Dean* to ſtand for her. Thereupon *Elias Allin* (*Madam Blithes* Sollicitor) ſeems to go about to draw the bonds, and they withdraw into another room. *M. Freſe* in all haſte is ſent for, to ſee the bonds ſealed; he then it ſeemeth attending the Council at *White-hall*. So ſoon as the Bonds were ſealed, Capt. *Vaux* declares to be gone out of town the next morning, therefore gives ſix weeks time to both parties to examine Witneſſes, and promiſes at his return to hear and determine the buſineſs. *M. Blithe*, being ſtrongly conceited with Cap. *Vaux* his fidelity towards him, and engagements to him, returns thanks to Capt. *Vaux* in eſpecial; and at departure, tells *M. Freſe*, and others, that he durſt put his life into Capt. *Vaux* his hands. Cap. *Vaux* notwithſtanding delays his going out of town, & ſends *Elias Allin* the next morning for *M. Freſe* to his chamber in *White-hall*, *M. Squib.*

Squib there before-hand preſent. Cap. *Vaux* preſents to *M. Freſe* a bond of 6 or 8000 *l.* to ſign and ſeal together with himſelf and *M. Squib*, to the uſe of *John Dean* and *Thomas Salisbury*, *Madam Blithes* ſecurity, to ſave them harmleſs from the bond of 4000 *l.* by them entred into to the Referrees, *Freſe*, *Vaux*, and *Squib*: upon reading whereof M. *Freſe* diſliked it, threw it from him, ſeemed to be highly moved, ſaying, *Gentlemen, I hope you have more honeſty and wiſdom in you, then to approve of ſuch an unreaſonable diſhoneſt paper. What ſhould move us to ſecure Madam* Blithes *ſecurity, more then M.* Blithe? *or is it a thing uſual for Referrees to do ſuch things?* To which both of them replied little.

Cap. *Vaux* went out of town, and is ſome ſix or ſeven weeks abſent: in this time *Madam Blithe* and her Sollicitor, get all her Affidavits ready drawn, ſends for her maids (and her ſiſter that run [redacted] from her husband into *Ireland*) makes them all ſwear fully to do her good, and to vilifie her husband. *Mr. Bailſtones* and *Mr. Gulſtones* Affidavits are alſo compoſed and ſworn to, and ſo ordered, that when they were to be read before the Referrees before *Elias Allin*, they were read in the names of one *Smith* and *Taylor*, becauſe *Mr. Blithe* muſt not know of their ſwearing againſt him ſo largely; Being all confident by this their plot, to compaſs their end, (which was *Mr. Blithes* deſtruction in a Goal) that ſo *Madam Blithe* and *Mr. Bailſtone* might the better carry on the Trade between them, (as Cap. *Vaux* ſaid) who all this while is out of Town. *Madam Blithe* being troubled at his long abſence, ſends *Allin* down to him, who at his Return, bringing no ſatisfactory anſwer, *Madam Blithe* goes down her ſelf to Capt. *Vaux*'s houſe beyond *Reding*, haſtens his coming up. In *February*,

Capt. *Vaux* returns to *White-hall*, both parties are ſummoned; appear the next day with Counſel; ſundry Affidavits are read of matters ſaid to be done, and words ſaid to be ſpoken by *Mr. Blithe*, ſome ſeven yeers and ten yeers ſince; but nothing proved of any miſdeanor on *Mr. Blithes* part, ſince their laſt reconciliation in *May*, 1656. but only a ſuppoſed pinch by the arm: *Mr. Blithe* denies it utterly. And then whereas it was alledged that M. *Blithe* is worth 10000 *l.* he then produced two accounts, the firſt contained 3956 *l.* in deſperate debts; not worth 100 *l.* the ſecond was of debts owing by the partable Eſtate between him and *Bailſtone*, which debts then amounted to 1176 *l.* as alſo an Affidavit, that his whole Eſtate with the 1000 *l.* in *John Deans* hands, did not exceed 1600 *l.* good Eſtate. And then alſo by himſelf and his Counſel M. *Strade*, proffered and freely declared, that if his wife, *Madam Blithe*, or her Friend and his Partner, *Tho. Bailſtone*, or his ſervant *Robert Gulſtone*, could make his Eſtate appear to be 6000 *l.* that then ſhe ſhould have 3000 *l.* of it; yea, ſaid *Mr. Blithe*, 4000 *l.* of it: or if ſhe would but re-aſſign that 1000 *l.* in *Mr. Deans* hand to him again, ſhe ſhould then have all the reſt of his Eſtate in the world. *Abraham*

At this meeting, *Mr. Hargrave* (one of his Highneſs Life-guard) nominated by *Madam Blithe*, a Referree with Capt. *Vaux*, and *Mr. Squib*; but excepted againſt by *Mr. Blithe*, as knowing him to be one of his wife's familiar friends, & was upon it excluded out of the 4000 *l.* bonds; and ſo then had no relation to the buſineſs: yet was it contrived by *Madam Blithe* and Capt. *Vaux*, for *Hargrave* to be then there, to bait, (as they ſaid) *Mr. Blithe* with reproachful language: at whoſe

whoſe coming, *Mr. Blithe* told the Referrees, *that he had before excepted againſt him, and that he had nothing to do in the buſineſs, and therefore deſired the Referrees to diſmiſs him*: but *Vaux* and *Squib* were ſilent: and *Hargrave* thereupon brake forth in moſt uncivil baſe language againſt *Mr. Blithe*, ſaying to him, *Sir, I am a Referree as well as they, and I will be here in deſpite of your teeth; you are a baſe luſtle-headed fellow, and we'll make you know, that you have abuſed this Lady ſufficiently; we'll handle you or your eſtate to ſome purpoſe for it, and teach you better manners: you Bear you, you are one of the beaſts of* Epheſus, *fit company for none but bears and dogs. Mr. Blithes* Counſel then ſaid, *Gentlemen, we come not here I hope to have the breach made greater; but we come reſolvedly to ſalve it up, which I think is his Highneſs pleaſure, and your deſire: I pray Gentlemen judge if this man be fit to be a Referree in this buſineſs.* Mr. *Freſe* then deſired *Hargraves* ſilence or civil language. *Hargrave* took this ill from *Mr. Freſe*, riſes from the table, and calls Capt. *Vaux*, and *Madam Blithe* into the next room, where they conclude to get the 4000 *l.* bonds (formerly left in *Mr. Freſe* his keeping) out of his hands. *Hargrave* comes forth, and in an inſulting way demands the bonds: *Mr. Freſe* refuſeth to deliver them to him, but delivers them up to *Vaux* and *Squib*, as to perſons concerned in them. The bonds thus gained, *Madam Blithe* is by them called into the next room, to know what more ſhe would have done. *Mr. Blithes* Counſel pleads hard for a reconciliation between *Mr. Blithe* and his wife, but findes no inclination on her part: preſſes it hard. Thereupon Capt. *Vaux* replied, ſaying, *I pray let our Counſel ſpeak too, as well as you*, (meaning *Mr. Ozley*, *Madam Blithes Counſel*. *Mr. Freſe* then replied to *Vaux*, ſaying; *I cannot approve of your words*,

Capt. Vaux, *both Counſel are alike to us.* Upon M. *Blithes* departure with his Counſel, it was moved by Capt. *Vaux* what Madam *Blithe* ſhould have out of M. *Blithes* Eſtate: and M. *Squib* replied, *That they could give no leſs then* 4000 l. M. *Freſe* then ſaid, *How can ſo much be given, ſeeing the breach of the* 1000 l. *Statute, in the extremity of it, gives Madam* Blithe *but* 500 *l. at Mr.* Blithes *death? Vaux, Squib*, and *Hargrave*, and *Madam Blithe* increaſe their jealouſie of M. *Freſe*, who all this while conceals himſelf, the better thereby to finde out the depth of this ſubtil complotted tragical part by them contrived to be infallibly acted, to Mr. *Blithes* deſtruction and rotting in goal: for that they themſelves knew, that it is impoſſible to gain the payment of 2000 *l.* out of the remainder of *Blithes* Eſtate, which is but 600 *l.*

Shortly after this, a writing of appointment is rough-drawn, by which 2000 *l.* is aſſigned to be paid by Mr. *Blithe* to one Mr. *Touch*, for *Madam Blithes* uſe. M. *Freſe* is ſent for, by Capt. *Vaux*, and M. *Squib*, for his conſent and approbation. M. *Freſe* reads it, objects againſt many abſurdities in it, denies to conſent, unleſs M. *Blithes* two accounts delivered to the Referrees, and his Affidavit, were diſproved by M. *Bailſtone* and M. *Gulſtone*, as was by them long before promiſed: which being put to them by M. *Freſe*, they both refuſed either to atteſt it under their hands, or to make Affidavit upon it, *viz.* that the partable Eſtate owed not one peny, as *Bailſtone* alledged; and that the account of debts ſaid and ſworn by M. *Blithe* to be deſperate, are good, as both of them formerly had ſundry times affirmed to the Referrees; and that Mr. *Blithe* is worth 10000 *l.* Mr. *Freſe* was notwithſtanding preſſed by Capt. *Vaux*, to conſent and ſubſcribe the Writing of appointment: he deſires

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a Copy of it, and time to conſider upon it: they promiſe M. *Freſe* a Copy, but fail in it. About this time *Madam Blithe* comes in her Coach to M. *Freſe*'s Lodgings at *Weſtminſter*, deſires him earneſtly to joyn with M. *Vaux* and M. *Squib*, and confirmed her former proffer to M. *Freſe*, *viz.* That *if he would conſent, and give her* 2000 l. *he then ſhould have* 2001. *but if he would yield but to* 1000 l. *he ſhould have* 100 l. *in good mony.* To which ſtrong temptation, M. *Fre.* is then ſaid to anſwer her in ſuch-like words, *Madam, excuſe me; I act not upon ſuch principles, my conſcience is more to me then all the world; yet ſhall I be ready to ſerve you according to juſtice and righteouſneſs.* After this *Madam Blithe* viſits M. *Freſe* in his Lodgings again, (ſo did Cap. *Vaux*, M. *Squib*, as alſo M. *Ozney*) where ſo it hapned, that Juſtice *Hardings* wife of *Dublin*, was at that time there, who as it appeared had known *Madam Blithe* for many yeers paſt. After *Madam Blithes* departure, Ms. *Harding* queſtion'd, ſaying to Ms. *Freſe*, *What do you with ſuch a lewd filthy creature in your company? I know her very well, ſhe is an arrant naughty-pack, & hath often endeavored to deſtroy her husband by her wicked baſe companions*; and then turning to M. *Freſe* charged him, to have a care how he medled with that deluding woman; and that ſhe was ſtark naught: and then alſo charged Mr. *Freſe*, as he would anſwer it at Gods Tribunal, to be careful how he acted any thing for that woman to the prejudice of her husband, who ſhe then ſaid, was a good honeſt moral man; and that ſhe knew that he had loved her too well; and that ſhe was perſwaded the Devil had not ſuch another deluding Inſtrument in all the world, as ſhe is.

The next day M. *Freſe* goes to Capt. *Vaux*'s Chamber, where *M. Squib*, *Madam Blithe*, *M. Bailſtone* and *M. Gulſtone* were met, queſtions how this 2000 *l.* could be raiſed

ted out of the partable Estate, being all in Goods & Debts in Chapmans hands, as not to be distinguished what part of it to be M. *Blithes*. Capt. *Vaux* then presently answered M. *Frese*, saying, *Sir, let not that trouble you at all; for we are resolved that Capt.* Hargrave *shall bait him to some purpose upon the Bond of* 4000 l. *and being once laid fast in Goal, M.* Bailstone *and Madam* Blithe *may carry on the Trade betwixt them. Well, Gentlemen* (said Mr. *Frese*) *this being the resolve, it is fit we should take some time to consider of it*; and so went his way from them. Some two days after this, *Elias Allin* is sent to M. *Frese* to *Milend-green* to press M. *Frese* to consent. The next day *Madam Blithe* comes in a Coach, accompanied by Mr. *Ozney* and M. *Bailstone*; M. *Frese* not being at home, they lose their labor. They yet again press Ms. *Frese* to perswade M. *Frese*. *Elias Allin* comes again the next morning, and presses Mr. *Frese* hard to subscribe (and was formerly twice or thrice down upon his knees to Mrs. *Frese* to perswade her husband to subscribe, or else he was undone: for he was to have 50 *l.* from *Mad. Blithe* for his pains in the business. *A pure knot of Canary-Birds that took great pains and whistled hard for their promised rewards from Madam Blithe.*

Elias Allin comes again to M. *Frese*'s house, presents the Writing of appointment to Mr. *Frese*; who then reading of it, sends a Note of his hand to *Vaux* and *Squib*, thereby declaring his dis-like of their unjust proceedings, as being contrary to their former pretences made to him; telling them, that *he utterly disowned these their proceedings*. Cap. *Vaux*, upon reading this Note, fell into a railing passion, call'd M. *Frese*, *Rogue*; and said, *that M.* Frese *had receiv'd many hundred pounds of* Blithe *to desert them.* (*Herein they measur'd his corn by their own bushel.*) The next day after this, *Madam Blithe*, accompa-

panied with *Bailſtone* and *Allin*; comes to M.*Freſe* his houſe to *Milend-green*, brings a Sugar-loaf to Ms.*Freſe*, which is refuſed; but *nolens volens* is left there: Ms.*Freſe* tells her, *that her husband was reſolved to have no hand in ſo unjuſt a buſineſs*. M. *Bailſtone* ſeem'd then to be very ſad upon it, and much diſcontented; *Elias Allin*, ready to run mad. Thus all of them enraged depart.

April 13. M. *Blithe* is three ſeveral times arreſted on the Bond of 4000*l*. M.*Ozney*, in ſtead of *Hargrave*, proſecutes this violently, (hoping M. *Blithe* could not have gained Bail to three ſuch great Actions & Writs of 4000 *l*. apiece) in M.*Freſe*, Cap.*Vaux*, and M.*Squibs* names. M.*Freſe* diſowns the Action and Suit.

The 26 of *April*, a Bill is in Chancery preferred in the names of *Dean* and *Salisbury*, (*Madam Blithes* two brothers) wherein *Vaux*, *Squib*, *Freſe* and *Blithe* are made Defendants: *Vaux* and *Squib*, (as before complotted) confeſs the Equity of the Bill; and before their Anſwer is filed, Capt.*Vaux*, accompanied with Mr. *Ozney* and *Madam Blithe*, comes to M.*Freſe*'s houſe on *Milend-green*; preſſeth him hard to joyn with him and Mr. *Squib* in their Anſwer; telling him, *that his Anſwer was by them already drawn*, and *that it ſhould not coſt him one penny*. M. *Freſe* refuſeth to joyn with them; tells them, *He will anſwer by himſelf*. *Vaux* then threatneth his ruine, boaſteth of his great intereſt [redacted], threatneth to impeach M.*Freſe*, for an enemy to his Highneſs, and to inform ſomwhat [redacted] againſt him. M.*Freſe* ſlighteth their threats; tells them, *That he is well known to be faithful to his Highneſs*; and, [redacted] *never gave him any other cauſe but to honor and reſpect him*; *and hoped he would rather do him good then any hurt.*

Since that time, they proſecute M. *Freſe* and M. *Blithe* with

with all violence in Chancery, to their great expence and trouble, although M. *Freſe* be no ways concern'd in it, and upon his Oath hath diſowned it; but only as to his duty and faithfulneſs to his Highneſs, for being really honeſt, he reaps the fruits of ſlander, trouble, moleſtation, cruelty and oppreſſion.

The Queſtion now reſteth, Whether in a high point of Honor, and Juſtice exemplary, his Princely Highneſs be not engaged to ſift out, and examine the real Truth of this diſhonorable buſineſs, and to right Mr. *Freſe*, who hath for ſome yeers had the ill hap (moſt wrongfully) to lie under the burden and laſh of falſe accuſations and traducing tongues; and to inflict exemplary puniſhment, on thoſe that have ſo highly diſhonored his Highneſs, the Lord Protector, by breaking that Truſt by his Highneſs repoſed in them; to the terror of all others that ſhall hereafter be intruſted in like matters by his Highneſs, or that ſhall preſume to deal partially and falſly in matters by his Highneſs committed to their truſt.

The 21 of *June* now laſt paſt, Madam *Blithe*, attended by Capt. *Vaux*, M. *Ozney*, M. *Bailſtone*, and ſome others, comes in a Coach to the Lion, neer M. *Freſe*'s houſe at *Milend-green*; pretends not to know M. *Freſe*, queſtions with the ſervants in the houſe of the courſe of his life, and of his Eſtate, & quantity of houſhold-ſtuff; give out they had an Execution of 350 *l.* to ſerve for one *William Oades*, on his Body and Goods, and were come to ſee it ſerved. This ill news (Mr. *Freſe* being from home) wrought no ſmall diſturbance in his family and neighbors, where *Madam Blithe* and her aſſociates ſpent their time in a ranting manner till ten at night. Then ſend one of their Janiſaries to tell Ms. *Freſe*, that one Capt. *Vaux*, M. *Ozney*, and M. *Hargrave*, one of his Highneſs

Life-

Life-guard, would speak with M. *Frese*. Then remov'd their station to the Gun, and then to the Chequer; being three several Ale-houses, meerly to discredit M. *Frese* amongst all his neighbors: which great bug-bear of theirs, was only an Attachment out of the Chancery, for not answering *Deans* Bill in time, occasioned by M. *Frese* his being sick some 16 dayes together: M. *Frese* prefers his Complaint in a Petition to his Highness [redacted], wherein he states the truth of the Case; desireth, that some persons of known honor and integrity, might have the hearing of this matter. Capt *Vaux* comes to the knowledge of it, stays the Reference: M. *Frese* then sends his Petition against no [redacted] he keeps it some 8 days, then returns it; sends M. *Frese* word the 14 of *July* by M. *Richard Hull*, that Cap. *Vaux* had entred a Caveat against it, or any Petition he should bring thither. (O pure work of impartial justice!) My Lord Protectors servants their unjust dealing must not be discovered, nor justice craved against them: their power [redacted] must and shall obstruct the current of justice; and so their lyes, slanders, unjust oppressive dealing & detractions cast upon others, shall be taken for Oracles; and the persons falsly accused, and most notoriously belyed by them, shall lie unjustly under the heavy burthen of reproach & shame. The very Heathen in this particular will rise up in judgement against this generation of men, who make the form of godliness a stalking-horse for their abominable dishonest practises. It's a riddle to all men, that M. *Frese* who refusing to betray his trust to his Highness, as also to take a bribe of 200 *l.* and making no advantage to himself by the business, but trouble, should, for not joyning with these Referrees, be plagued and thus unjustly vexed, by suits

in the Law, meerly for being honeſt and juſt. *O horrid wickedneſs!*

The 10 of *July*, 1657. M. *Freſe* attendeth in the Gallery at *White-hall* to ſpeak with his Highneſs: M. *Hargrave* ſees him there, queſtions with him how he came there, and what he made there, and who let him in; and in a moſt uncivil beaſtly raging manner, moſt falſly affirmed, that M. *Freſe* had deceived *Madam Blithe* of 2000*l.* and reviled him there openly before all men: Charging things upon him that are moſt abominably falſe; and then moſt audaciouſly affirmed, that M. *Freſe* was one of Major *Harriſons* Church, and one of the Fifth-Monarchy-men; and that a Gentleman, one Capt. *Vaux*, told him, that there was two Warrants in the Meſſengers hands to take M. *Freſe* long ſince, but knew not where to finde him; and yet M. *Freſe* is dayly at *white-hall*; and that M. *Harvy* and M. *Huit*, had fully acquainted his Highneſs what Mr. *Freſe* was. To all which and much more, M. *Freſe* anſwered M. *Hargrave* only thus: *Sir, all what you have here ſaid, is moſt wicked and falſe; and I wonder his Highneſs doth ſhelter ſuch perſons as you under his roof: as for your threats, I weigh them not a ruſh, do your worſt: and I truſt truth and righteouſneſs will carry me forth in deſpite of hell and all his inſtruments. I, I,* ſaid *Hargrave, my Lord Protector knows you well enough Sir. Yes,* ſaid M. *Freſe, I know he doth, and I deſire no other perſon then his Highneſs, to hear the truth of this buſineſs; and I ſhall, God-willing, endeavor to procure it in time, to your ſhame.* It is to be admired with what face of impudency a ſort of people getting into his Highneſs ſervice can flouriſh out their lyes and ſlanders, falſe accuſations and backbiting, a thing now (*al a mode*) and he that is faithful and true to his truſt, and a plain-dealing perſon, void of flattery, becomes thereby a prey to

theſe

theſe ſons of Knavery. Thus have you here the moſt faithful and true Relation (ready to be atteſted by ſundry perſons of integrity and true piety) of the trapanning Trapanners trapanned. The God of Mercy give them Grace to repent of theſe their pre-meditated and complotted deceitful ways, cauſing them for the future to abhor the like wicked practiſes: and I truſt the Lords Commiſſioners will be ſo honorable and ſo juſt, as not to ſuffer ſuch a Bill to remain on the File, but cauſe it to be caſt out of the Court with exemplary Coſts. And the Lord alſo in mercy to this Nation ſtir up the Spirit of our *Gideon*, by the wiſdom of *Solomon* to divide and judge righteouſly between the true and falſe Mothers, between all thoſe that truely love, honor, and ſerve him with all faithfulneſs, with much patience; and thoſe that fawn, and flatter, and ſerve him meerly for the loaves; and that his Highneſs would (for his own honor ſake, ſo deeply ingaged in this buſineſs) be pleaſed to ſearch and ſift out the myſtery of this iniquity, & reward every of them according to his works; and according to *David's* Rule, Not to ſuffer a lyer nor deceitful perſon to tarry in his houſe, nor to eat of his bread, nor to drink his drink: ſo ſhall the God of *Iſrael* (who is the God of true Juſtice, Judgement and Mercy) be at all times preſent with him, and preſident over him: *for he that ruleth over men muſt be juſt, ruling in the fear of God.* For it is moſt certain and true, that *Chriſt* and *Belial* cannot dwell together; and he that is not faithful to his Highneſs truſt repoſed, cannot be faithful to his Highneſs Perſon.

To conclude this ſtory, and to give you further aſſurance of the real truth thereof, you ſhall hear, Reader, Capt. *George Vaux* his own written Letter to Mr. *Freſe*, after they ſee that all their threats and ranting at his

house did not work the effect they hoped it would (the 21 of *June* last past) as is before declared, and after several invitations of M.*Frese* to come to Capt.*Vaux* his Chamber at *White-hall*; as also the Copy of M.*Frese* his Petition to his Highness, obstructed by Cap.*Geo.Vaux*.

Capt. *Vaux* his Letter to *Mr. Frese*.

Mr. *Frese*,

I *Would gladly speak with you at my Lodgings about one* Wil. Oades *of* Reading, *a Clothier, who oweth me money for wool he had of me, and hath assigned me over the money you owe him for cloth. I desire to speak with you about it at my Lodgings at* White-hall, *to morrow morning, being* Wednesday, *if you think fit to do your self so much favour in it: otherwise, you will necessitate me to take another course then what at present I intend. If you come, I shall shew you your* 6000 l. *Bond, and your Defeasances for* 276 l. *odd shillings, upon your Judgement acknowledged in the Common-pleas*,

White-hall, *June* 23. 1657.

Your Friend, according as you shall deserve,

George Vaux.

And note, That M.*Frese* did forthwith send to M.*Oads* to know if this were so; who, like an honest man, disowns the thing, saying, *That if any man hath done or writ concerning any such thing to M.*Frese, *it is without his knowledge or consent; and that he never gave way to any such thing. The debt also being above twenty yeers since, and was upon two single Bills: the one of* 186 l. *and the other of* 50 l. (and not upon a Bond of 6000 *l.* as *Vaux* falsly alledgeth in his Letter, to be for 276 *l.* odd shillings debt) *of which debt, M.*Frese *hath long since both the Bills in, cancelled, and the Judgement superseded, to my knowledge, many*

yeers

yeers ſince. Thus you ſee, that no ſtone is by them left unturn'd, to ruine honeſt M. Freſe, *leſt he ſhould be inſtrumental to render them odious to all men, and cauſe them to incur his Highneſs ſevere diſpleaſure in the higheſt meaſure, exemplary to all others his ſervants and attendants. Sir, I am a lover of juſtice, and a ſervant to all honeſt faithful men in the truth, and deſire not to reward evil for good; for I know, they that hate the Righteous, and the ways of the juſt man, ſhall all aſſuredly periſh: the Lord ſhall confound them in his wrath, and vex them in his ſore diſpleaſure: therefore let them take heed that countenance evil doers and unjuſt perſons, and ſuffer them to go unpuniſhed, to the encouragement of wickedneſs and vice.*

John Allurd'.

To his Highneſs the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland *and* Ireland, *&c.*

The Humble Petition of *James Freſe*, Gent.

Humbly complainingly ſheweth,

THat a Reference was gained on the Petition of *Anne Blithe*, complaining againſt her husband *Rich. Blithe* Grocer; directed to Lieut. Col. *Zankey*, Maj. *Miller*, Capt. *Geo. Vaux*, *John Squib*, *Geo. Hargrave*, and your Petitioner, or to any two of them, for the compoſing of Differences: That her husband, as alſo ſhe, (by two Friends for her) entred into 4000 *l.* bound to three of the Referrees, *viz. Vaux*, *Squib*, and your Petitioner, to ſtand to the determination of three, or any two of them; and it then appeared, that the Defft. *Blithe*, had long before depoſited 1000 *l.* in *John Deans* hand for her ſeparate maintenance, ſecured by *Dean* by a Statute of 2000 *l.* defeaſanced, That neither ſhe, nor any on her behalf, ſhall ever ſue, moleſt, trouble or demand of the ſaid *Rich: Blithe*, any further maintenance. That

That in *May*, 1656. the Defft. gained the Plts. hand upon entring into a Statute of 1000 *l.* defeasanced to leave her 500 *l.* more at his death, (although her Portion was but 300 *l.*) That in point of Justice, your Highnes's Referrees could take no cognizance, but of the breach of this latter Statute of 1000 *l.* (all former Differences being made null, by this their Reconciliation in *May*, 1655.) Which upon examination we found only to be a bare Allegation of a supposed pinch on her arm: That she and her Confederates pretended the Defft. *Blithe* to be worth 10000 *l.* but did not prove it: That Lieut. Col. *Zankey*, and Maj. *Miller*, were purposely never summoned to meet: That two of the Referrees, *Vaux* and *Squib*, have ordered the Defft. *Blithe*, to pay 2000 *l.* more for the Plts. use; although the Defft. proved upon Oath to have but 6 or 700 *l.* good Estate, more then the 1000 *l.* formerly deposited in *John Deans* hands; and that he was never worth 2000 *l.* in all his life, good Estate: and then declared freely, That if she, the Plt. knew or could finde out 6000 *l.* Estate of his, she should then freely have 4000 *l.* of it.

That your Petitioner, in discharge of his Trust, with honor to your Highnes's, and the safety of a good Conscience, did not joyn with the said Referrees to sign the Writing of appointment, for 2000 *l.* although he was several times proffered 200 *l.* to do it, out of 800 *l.* by her assigned to be conferred in like manner on other persons for answering her desires.

That in *April* last past the Defft. *Blithe* was in twenty four hours time, arrested in *London* three several times on the Bond of 4000 *l.* in your Petitioners name, (but without his knowledge or consent) That then also a Bill is preferred in Chancery in *Dean* and *Salisburies* names, and complotted to make the Referrees Defts.

with

with M. *Blithe*: That then *Anne Blithe*, accompanied with *Vaux* and *Ozney*, came to your Petitioners house; where after their earnest pressure, and your Petitioners refusal to joyn with them in their Answer to the said Bill, they forthwith brake forth into most uncivil language, threatning to impeach your Petitioner, as an Enemy to your Highness; and do still persist in breathing forth most scandalous reviling speeches against your Petitioner, and vex him also in Chancery, to his great expence and trouble, as also defaming your Petitioner to the best of his Friends, and amongst his neighbours in a high manner.

In tender consideration of the Premises, and for that such unjust practices tend highly to the displeasure of God, and to the dishonor of your Highness; and for that your Petitioner hath suffered much by slanderous traducing tongues for *Justice sake*; and for that your Petitioner hath spent much time (to his great charge) to serve your Highness upon sundry References, and upon Commissions for Charitable uses in all faithfulness; and for that your Petitioner plainly apprehended the Proceedings of the said Referrees, to tend meerly to the destruction of the Defft. *Blithe* in Goal, more then to any probability of the gaining 2000*l.* out of 6 or 700*l.* Estate.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prayeth for your gracious Reference to some Persons of Honor and unbyassed Integrity, to examine and report to your Highness the whole Truth of this Business; that so by your Highness Favour, he may gain delive-

liverance, and be set Free from the cruel Bondage of Slander and Reproach, most wrongfully sustained; as also from the Trouble and Expences in Chancery, for not consenting to the Prosecution of that unjust Bond; but Releasing [redacted], according to Justice and a good Conscience, long before the Commencement of the said Suit in Chancery.

And your Petitioner shall, &c.

FINIS.